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FROM: Stockholm

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1245, June 2, 3 p.m.

In an address on June 1 to newly formed foreign press club which excludes Communists Foreign Minister Unden inter alia made following remarks:

"The birth of the new political leadership in the Soviet Union is naturally an occurrence of great importance. Of course, I do not believe that any radical change in Russian foreign policy is to be expected. But I rather imagine the possibility that the new regime aims at a certain relaxation of tensions in relations with the western powers and that the new leaders wish to impress their people that the foreign policy being conducted is not so reckless as to lead unexpectedly to any catastrophe.

"An armistice in Korea appears to be within reach. In this instance, it is undoubtedly up to China to say the decisive word. The latest UN proposal appears to be a reasonable bid as far as can be judged from here on the basis of available information."

In pointed reference to the Norwegian base question (Embassy despatch 1073, May 8) Unden stated: "In Sweden there is widespread opinion that peace is not best safeguarded by having the two great power blocs bordering on one another militarily. What the western powers regard as defensive military bases for protection against Russian aggression is viewed by the Russians as attempts at encirclement."

Full text pouched.

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